

Campus News

Leaders Urge Freshmen To Get Involved

It's not too early for freshmen to begin preparing to take over positions that the graduating class of 1987 will be leaving, a panel of campus black leaders said at a Freshmen Forum sponsored by the Black Student Movement.

The panel consisted of Cassandra Butts, an executive assistant of the student government; Rochelle Brandon, a member of the honor court; Camille Roddy, Black Student Movement President; Eric Walker, Anti-Apartheid Support Group member; Dexter Tucker, Black Greek Council president; Leon Herndon, Black Pre-Professional Health Society; and Donald Tate, Student Congressman.

Minority representation is important in campus organizations such as the Undergraduate Honor Court, Brandon said.

"We need to make sure it is diverse," she said. Students who are accused of honor code violations and who have sufficient evidence against them must work with the attorney general's staff, and having someone who understands on-campus problems may be more available for help, she said.

Two blacks now serve as Undergraduate Honor Court vice-chairmen. Both, Felecia Washington and Fred Evans, are seniors, she said.

Getting on the honor court is challenging, Brandon said, and the application is difficult. However, she encouraged students to meet this challenge.

The only black member of the Student Congress, Donald Tate, agreed with

Brandon and said there was a big need for more black officials. It was not impossible to have four black representatives from South Campus or anywhere on the Student Congress, he said.

Tate said his vote only counted four percent in Student Congress matters. However, one person can make a difference, he said.

"(on one issue) it came down to whether we were going to have one day off for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday . . . and I had to cast the last vote."

The Student Congress often makes stands on administrative policies, he said, such as with the King Holiday and the divestiture of funds from South Africa by the University.

"It (voting) doesn't mean we have the power to take our money out (of South Africa), it just acknowledges the fact that we don't support it."

Student Congress's main purpose is for allocation of money to campus organizations. Tate said the BSM has come to the Congress for increased funding for Project Uplift. They did not get extra money, he said.

"If we had more black representation, then it wouldn't have gotten tabled," he said, adding that many of the people on the staff are conservative and will only vote that way.

"It's leaving us out in the cold," he said.

Tate also said that he doesn't feel that he has to vote for every black issue. He

has voted against funding for minority projects that only cater to a small number of people.

Tate said it's lonely being the only black.

"It's not difficult, but it can be hard and tedious," he said.

Involvement and interaction are very important in the college experience, Tucker said.

"To be a good student here you have to apply yourself," he said. "You have to get involved."

The Black Greek system at UNC is very dedicated to making a better environment for blacks, he said.

"The Black Greek system is not just about partying," he said. Greeks used their stepping talents to raise money for debt-ridden Shaw University in Raleigh, and as part of a nationwide attempt to get students to register to vote, he said.

Herndon said his group is trying to encompass all black students in the health area so that resources can be shared.

Walker said the UNC Anti-Apartheid Support group lacked black participation numberwise. Of the 70 active members, five are black, he said.

"It's a black issue even if this is on a white campus," he said.

Although most of the members of the group are willing to go to jail for their cause, Walker said, anyone can become involved without being as adamant.

"We need some people for teach-ins (about apartheid) and work on our fliers."

Speaking of her involvement with student government, Butts said students should achieve in academics, but not stray away from extra-curricular activities.

"It's important that you have a voice," she said. "There's a great need to become involved with student government because it is representative of all people on campus, and since there are black people on campus, you should get involved."

Roddy told the audience that there was plenty to do in the Black Student Movement. Students should, however, try to get a feel of where they are needed most.

"Don't feel as if you have to chair every committee," she said. "But keep in touch with each other (on different committees)."

Campus is intimidating, she said. "Sometimes there's a feeling that I can't . . . but you can't make a difference unless you're trying."

Students who have an idea of the campus organizations they would like to become involved in should seek out black members of the organization "you have a lot of information leaving with these seniors," she said.

Seniors have a sense of the politics at UNC, she said, and can direct freshmen to administrators and faculty who can help.

Nancy Harrington

University and Community Groups Team To Fight Racism

The UNC Anti-Apartheid Support Group and the Orange County Coalition of Conscience met at the Franklin Street Post Office Thursday night, November 13, for a candlelight vigil to protest racism in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro School System and in South Africa.

"It's important for people to realize that racism is racism, no matter where it occurs", said AASG Chairman Robert Reid-Pharr. "It is up to us, especially blacks, to take steps to erase this plague."

Reid-Pharr listed atrocities in South Africa that are directly attributed to differences in race.

Yonni Chapman of the Orange County Rainbow Coalition of Conscience illustrated the marked difference in educational opportunities for black and white students in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro School System.

In the first grade, achievement test scores of black students are 50% less than those of white students, a gap which increases as the years progress. Chapman asserted that a major portion of the blame for this problem can be placed on the attitudes of school officials.

"It is assumed that the children of the University professors will achieve, so special attention is paid to them," he said. "On the other hand, children of physical plant workers, janitors, and food service workers are expected to assume their parents' positions, and they are treated accordingly."

Dr. Trudier Harris of the English department brought greetings and words of support on behalf of the faculty, as did Eric V. Walker, BSM Vice-President,

who expressed thanks that, "other groups are as concerned as the BSM is about the education of the Black race, the preservation of the Black culture."

Reid-Pharr and Walker expressed a desire for more blacks and students at large to get involved in either of these groups, welcoming questions and comments at any time.

Scholars Honored

On November 6, some 65 Johnston, Morehead, Pogue, and Postgraduate scholars mingled with faculty members at the Pogue Scholars Selection Committee reception held in the scholars' honor in the State Dining Room of the John Motley Morehead Building.

Dr. Robert Canon, Affirmative Action Officer, played an active role in publicizing and gathering the necessary information, according to Dr. Charles Long, William Rand Kenan, Jr. Professor in the Department of Religious Studies and the chairman of the Pogue Scholars Selection Committee.

Canon said, "We wanted to honor those black students who are paying attention to their purpose for being here." He added, "We would like to invite everyone because we hope the number of scholars will increase."

He credits Laresia Farrington and Shirley Heintger for having made the reception arrangements.

Richard J. White, III
Assistant to the Editor

BPPHS Holds First Meeting

After being defunct on the UNC campus for about four years, the Black Pre-Professional Health Society (BPPHS) held its first meeting for the 1986-87 academic year on November 5th at 8:00 pm in the Student Union.

About 60 students attended along with about 15 faculty and administration members.

Headed by Paul Edwards and Leon Hernandez, the goal of the BPPHS is basically two-fold. First of all, the group hopes to serve as an information center for black students in all health related fields.

Some of the services that will be provided by BPPHS are a listing of requirements for all health majors, notices of all pertinent test dates for health majors, and guidance with academic concerns that students may have.

Secondly, BPPHS hopes to serve as a support group for black students in the health field at UNC. The group will provide role models through upper-classmen and faculty involved in health fields.

The group also plans to provide social and academic support through peer groups and counselors.

Many students who attended the meeting were astonished at the array of careers that were available to them in the health care field.

Some of the departments that were on hand to inform students about what was available to them were the School of Public Health, the School of Dentistry, the School of Medicine, the School of Phar-

macy, Pre-Med/Pre-Dent department, the department of Medical Allied Health, and the School of Nursing.

Students were told that although there is a lack of minorities in all of these areas, they are wanted and can succeed in whichever one they desire to pursue.

Most of the students that attended were very impressed with what they heard.

Jammee Holton, a freshman from Raleigh, NC, said that the meeting was very informative for her and other minorities who are seeking a career in the health field.

Holton also said that the meeting gave her a chance to meet with students, deans, and professors who are associated with the various schools.

The faculty and administration members who were present at the meeting were also very open toward students.

Dr. Bob Thorpe, head of the Pre-Med/Pre-Dent curriculum, said that students should take advantage of the services that are offered by the BPPHS because today students cannot wait for opportunities, but they must prepare for them. Dr. Thorpe is also an advisor for BPPHS.

The BPPHS will operate out of the Pre-Health Professional Advising office located in 201D Steele Building. Any student that is serious about pursuing a career in the health field should stop by and talk to one of the advisors there.

Abraham Segres, Staff Writer